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A REMARK ON RATIONALLY CONNECTED VARIETIES AND MORI DREAM SPACES

CLAUDIO FONTANARI AND DILETTA MARTINELLI

ABSTRACT. In this short note, we show that a construction by Ottem [Ott15, Theorem 1.1] provides an example of a rationally connected variety that is not birationally equivalent to a Mori dream space with terminal singularities. This answers in the negative (at least in the category of terminal varieties) a question posed by Krylov [Kry15, Remark 5.7].

1. INTRODUCTION

Varieties of Fano type are examples of varieties that behave well with respect to the Minimal Model Program. They are known to be rationally connected by [KMM92] and [Zha06]. However, the converse is not true (the blow-up of \mathbb{P}^2 in 10 very general points provides an obvious counterexample). In the recent paper [Kry15] it is shown that there exist smooth rationally connected varieties of dimension $n \geq 4$ that are not birationally equivalent to a variety of Fano type.

Mori dream spaces form another class of varieties that behave well with respect to a D -MMP, for any divisor D [HK00, Proposition 1.11]. We recall (see [HK00, Definition 1.10]) that a Mori dream space is a normal \mathbb{Q} -factorial projective variety such that

- (i) $\text{Pic}(X)$ is finitely generated;
- (ii) The Nef cone $\text{Nef}(X)$ is the affine hull of finitely many semi-ample line bundles;
- (iii) There is a finite dimensional collection of small \mathbb{Q} -factorial modifications $f_i: X \dashrightarrow X_i$ such that each X_i satisfies (ii) and the movable cone $\text{Mov}(X)$ is the union of the $f_i^*(\text{Nef}(X_i))$.

It was proven in [BCHM10, Corollary 1.3.2] that any \mathbb{Q} -factorial projective variety of Fano type is a Mori dream space. Krylov then asked the following question.

Question 1.1. [Kry15, Remark 5.7] *Let X be a rationally connected variety. Is X birationally equivalent to a Mori dream space?*

In this short note, we claim that a negative answer to Question 1.1 is implied (at least in the category of terminal varieties) by [Ott15,

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Theorem 1.1], stating that a very general hypersurface of bidegree (d, e) in $\mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}^n$ is not a Mori dream space for $d \geq n + 1$ and $e \geq 2$.

More precisely, we prove the following fact.

Theorem 1.2. *For every $n \geq 11$ and $d \geq n + 1$ there exists a smooth very general hypersurface X in $\mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}^n$ of bidegree (d, n) which is rationally connected but not birationally equivalent to a Mori dream space with terminal singularities.*

In Section 2 we recall the necessary notions from the Minimal Model Program and the definition of birationally rigid varieties. In Section 3 we prove Theorem 1.2. The strategy of the proof is quite simple: since we start from a variety X that is not a Mori dream space, we only need to ensure that X is birationally superrigid and it does not admit fibre-wise transformations.

2. PRELIMINARIES

Throughout the paper we work over the field of complex numbers. All the varieties we consider are assumed to be normal projective and \mathbb{Q} -factorial.

2.1. Minimal Model Program. We recall the standard definition of singularities appearing in the Minimal Model Program. For more details see [KM08, Section 2.3].

Definition 2.1. [KM08, Definition 2.34] Let X be a normal variety and let Δ be an effective \mathbb{Q} -divisor on X . Let $\pi: \tilde{X} \rightarrow X$ be a birational morphism from a normal variety \tilde{X} . Let $\tilde{\Delta} = \pi_*^{-1}(\Delta)$ be the proper transform of Δ . Then we can write

$$K_{\tilde{X}} + \tilde{\Delta} = \pi^*(K_X + \Delta) + \sum_E a(E, X, \Delta)$$

where E runs through all the distinct exceptional prime divisors on \tilde{X} and $a(E, X, \Delta)$ is a rational number. We say that the pair (X, Δ) is terminal (resp. canonical, log terminal, log canonical) if $a(E, X, \Delta) > 0$ (resp. $a(E, X, \Delta) \geq 0$, $a(E, X, \Delta) > -1$, $a(E, X, \Delta) \geq -1$) for every prime divisor E on \tilde{X} . If $\Delta = 0$ then we simply say that X has terminal (resp. canonical, log terminal, log canonical) singularities.

We now define the log canonical threshold of a pair (see for details [Kol97, Section 8]).

Definition 2.2. [Che09, Definition 1.2] Let X be a variety with at most log terminal singularities, let $Z \subseteq X$ be a closed subvariety, and let D be an effective \mathbb{Q} -Cartier \mathbb{Q} -divisor on X . Then the number

$$\text{lct}_Z(X, D) = \sup\{\lambda \in \mathbb{Q} \mid \text{the log pair } (X, \lambda D) \text{ is log canonical along } Z\}$$

is said to be the log canonical threshold of D along Z . We assume, in addition, that X is a Fano variety. We then define the log canonical threshold of X by the number

$$\text{lct}(X) = \inf\{\text{lct}(X, D) \mid D \text{ is an effective } \mathbb{Q}\text{-divisor on } X \text{ s.t. } D \equiv -K_X\}.$$

The number $\text{lct}(X)$ is an algebraic counterpart of the so-called α -invariant first introduced by Tian in [Tia87].

2.2. Birational rigidity.

Definition 2.3. A Mori fiber space is a \mathbb{Q} -factorial projective variety X with at most terminal singularities and a morphism $\phi: X \rightarrow Z$, such that

- The anticanonical class of X , $-K_X$, is ϕ -ample;
- The relative Picard number, $\text{Pic}(X/Z)$, is 1;
- $\dim Z < \dim X$.

Fano varieties with Picard rank 1 and Fano fibrations over \mathbb{P}^1 , by which we mean terminal \mathbb{Q} -factorial varieties with Picard number 2 and a map to \mathbb{P}^1 such that the generic fiber is a smooth Fano variety, are typical examples of Mori fiber spaces.

We recall here just the definition of birationally superrigidity, while for a comprehensive introduction to the subject we refer to [Puk13] and [Che05].

Definition 2.4. [CM04, Definition 1.3] Let $X \rightarrow Z$ and $X' \rightarrow Z'$ two Mori fiber spaces, a birational map $f: X \dashrightarrow X'$ is *square* if fits into the commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X & \xrightarrow{f} & X' \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ Z & \xrightarrow{g} & Z' \end{array}$$

where g is birational and the map induced on the generic fiber $f_L: X_L \rightarrow Z_L$ is biregular, where we denote with L the generic point of Z . In this case we say that X/Z and X'/Z' are *square equivalent*.

Definition 2.5. We say that a Mori fiber space is *birationally rigid* if the set

$$\{\text{Mori fiber space } Y \rightarrow S \mid Y \text{ birational to } X\} / \text{square equivalence}$$

contains just a single element. Moreover, we say that X is *birationally superrigid* if in addition the group of birational automorphisms $\text{Bir}(X)$ and the group of biregular automorphisms $\text{Aut}(X)$ coincide.

Therefore, it follows that if X/Z and X'/Z' are Mori fiber spaces and $f: X \dashrightarrow X'$ is a birational map between them, then f maps X to X' fibre-wise.

3. PROOF OF THEOREM 1.2

Remark 3.1. The hypersurface X admits a fibration onto \mathbb{P}^1 , whose generic fiber is a Fano variety by the adjunction formula. Hence X is rationally connected by [GHS03, Corollary 1.3].

Let $U \subset \mathbb{P}H^0(\mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}^n, \mathcal{O}(d, n))$ be the dense set corresponding to hypersurfaces f which are not Mori dream spaces by [Ott15].

On the other hand, by [Puk15, Theorem 4], if $n \geq 11$ then there exists a Zariski open subset $\mathcal{F}_{\text{reg}} \subset \mathbb{P}H^0(\mathbb{P}^n, \mathcal{O}(n))$ with complement of codimension > 1 such that every hypersurface $F \in \mathcal{F}_{\text{reg}}$ satisfies:

(i) F is a factorial Fano variety with terminal singularities and $\text{Pic}(F) = \mathbb{Z}K_F$;

(ii) for every effective divisor $D \in |-K_F|$ the pair $(F, \frac{1}{n}D)$ is log canonical, and for every mobile linear system $\Sigma \subset |-K_F|$ the pair $(F, \frac{1}{n}D)$ is canonical for a general divisor $D \in \Sigma$.

In particular, this means that $\text{lct}(F) \geq 1$.

We consider the natural evaluation and projection maps:

$$\begin{aligned} ev : \mathbb{P}H^0(\mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}^n, \mathcal{O}(d, n)) \times \mathbb{P}^1 &\rightarrow \mathbb{P}H^0(\mathbb{P}^n, \mathcal{O}(n)) \\ (f, p) &\mapsto f(p) \\ \pi : \mathbb{P}H^0(\mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}^n, \mathcal{O}(d, n)) \times \mathbb{P}^1 &\rightarrow \mathbb{P}H^0(\mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}^n, \mathcal{O}(d, n)) \\ (f, p) &\mapsto f \end{aligned}$$

and let

$$V := \mathbb{P}H^0(\mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}^n, \mathcal{O}(d, n)) \setminus \pi(ev^{-1}(\mathbb{P}H^0(\mathbb{P}^n, \mathcal{O}(n)) \setminus \mathcal{F}_{\text{reg}})).$$

The set V is a Zariski open subset since \mathcal{F}_{reg} is so and it is non-empty since the complement of \mathcal{F}_{reg} has codimension > 1 .

Now, if $f \in U \cap V \neq \emptyset$ then the Mori fiber space X defined by f is birationally superrigid (see for instance [Puk13, Proposition 3.1, pp. 309–310]: as in [Kry15, Lemma 3.7], the K-condition is trivially satisfied for $d > 0$). We can also exclude fibre-wise transformations by quoting [Che09, Theorem 1.5], exactly as in [Kry15, Corollary 3.2]. It follows that X is not birational to a Mori dream space with terminal singularities. Indeed, if Y were a Mori dream space birational to X , then since X has negative Kodaira dimension Y would be birational via a Minimal Model Program to a Mori fiber space preserving the structure of Mori dream space, a contradiction.

3.1. Open Questions. If we start from a rationally connected variety and we run a MMP, we end up with a Mori fiber space as in Definition 2.3. Therefore, an interesting question related to the previous results is the following.

Question 3.2. *Which Mori fiber spaces over \mathbb{P}^1 are Mori dream spaces? Is it possible to reach some kind of classification?*

In dimension two, Mori fiber spaces over \mathbb{P}^1 are the Hirzebruch surfaces, that are toric and, therefore, Mori dream spaces.

Further connections between Mori Dream Spaces and the birational geometry of Fano varieties are suggested in [AZ16].

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